

**Citizens Police Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, February 4, 2015
Asheville Police Department**

Present: Councilmember Chris Pelly, Chair Jay Gurney, Debbie Applewhite, Allen Brailsford, Carol Rogoff Hallstrom, Larry Holt, Interim Chief Steve Belcher, Deputy Chief Wade Wood, Capt Reece-Young, Chief Burnette

Guests: Susan Bean, Isabel Carson, Carmen Ramos-Kennedy

Meeting: Called to order by Chair Gurney at 3:05 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

- December minutes approved as revised; January minutes approved as written

APD & City Staff Update:

Update from Fire Chief Burnette on the implementation of the strategic plan:

- 14 new members on teams; working diligently with implementation
- Survey discussion: Survey is under purview of Planning Area Community Quality of Life; Planning Area group in process of looking at timelines, and if possible / how best to combine the various City surveys; Committee suggestion: make sure steps taken to ensure that they are all integrated and let Committee review and give input

Matrix Consulting Firm's survey results:

- Paul Fetherston, Assistant City Manager, gave the update; have not yet received report; hoping to get it soon; will then do an analysis and move forward in a logical manner with issues presented

Update on Search for new Chief of Police

- Paul Fetherston gave the update; about to announce firm chosen through RFP process; 13 proposals received; 7 firms interviewed; Mr. Fetherston to forward RFP and contract to CPAC;
- Community input sessions will be week of February 23; concern expressed by committee for need for recap meeting from the public input sessions; Dawa Hitch will work to maximize communication plan
- Candidates identified in April, interviews in May (all tentative)
- Committee also continues to be concerned over what and how process for firm to be briefed on Asheville specific issues; committee assured that SOP will be major component of what new chief will be tasked with
- Since high profile hire, process will include public meet & greet, and public presentation of finalists; community will also be able to submit comments to the City Manager's office

Update from Chief Belcher

- Busy couple of weeks: attended MLK breakfast, all of the various roll calls, trying to get flavor of things, lots on agenda to get through

- Looking forward to Matrix study; timing good
- Always interested in suggestions, both individually or from the group

Unfinished Business

Committee planning session – CPAC guiding language – 2/11/15 @ 6pm

- As Councilman Chris Pelly unable to attend on Feb 11, rescheduled for March 4, 1p, 4th Floor Training Room of the Municipal Building

Continued discussion regarding selection process new Chief of Police

- Covered in “updates”

Identifying a new South AVL member

- Two candidates have submitted their applications to City Clerk Maggie Burleson
- Councilman Pelly encouraged all to weigh in with Council if have constructive feedback; will be appointed at their next meeting, or will extend deadline for application

New Business

Issues raised by the Racial Justice Coalition, including “... strengthened role and voice for the Citizens Police Advisory Committee”

- Will address at planning session for CPAC guiding language; Council will need to approve

Safety concerns at intersection of Merrimon and Coleman Avenues

- TSU addressing, with several other agencies; coordinating resources
- State doing an assessment of all intersections on Merrimon
- Committee requests update at next meeting

Post Paris security concerns and the Jewish Community – guest from the Jewish Community Center

- Lael Gray, executive director of the Jewish Community center, spoke of their overall safety concerns at the Center; Chief Belcher, Capt Reece-Young and Lt Rollins will schedule a tour facilities; satisfied with relationship with APD to date – always very responsive

Recommendation to City staff and Council to continue funding the Housing Authority team

- Discussion re recommendation to City staff and Council to continue funding five officers (of the ten) for the Housing Authority team
- Chair Gurney spoke in support of the recommendation, referencing the importance of one officer per each housing unit and that it was truly “community policing at work; Sgt Lamb and Mr. Holt also spoke in support of the recommendation; premise behind community policing is same people working same area for same period of time; only way it works is for solving crime and solving social issues; getting to know people who they are serving – basic premise; is most crucial issue in policing today for reduction in crime
- Ms Rogoff Hallstrom suggested that Mr. Gurney recuse himself from the vote, as an employee of the Housing Authority; Councilman Pelly did not agree, and, as Mr. Gurney had no self interest in the recommendation, it was unfair for her to call into question his ability to vote
- Ms Rogoff Hallstrom also suggested that the housing community should have a voice in the decision; she would like to hear from them if it is a positive step

- Mr. Holt made a motion in support of the recommendation; Ms. Applewhite seconded; motion passed 4 - 2

Community Outreach – Round Table / Shared Experiences

Debbie Applewhite (East)

- She and Mr. Holt working with NAC, for the Festival of Neighborhood event on Sunday afternoon, March 15, at AB Tech; there will be six information sessions; perfect opportunity to incorporate Strategic Operations Plan areas Community Quality of Life and Agency Outreach

Larry Holt (Downtown)

- Discussed concerns over the parking situation downtown, specifically the lack of written citations after 6p and on Sundays
- Also asked for consideration of more signage for pedestrian crosswalks

Carol Rogoff Hallstrom (North):

- Gave an update on "Seeing Selma" month: proclamation given by Council at their February 3rd meeting (attached)
- Encouraged all who worked with young people to attend the movie

Public Comment

Carmen Ramos-Kennedy

- Gave synopsis of Asheville Citizen-Times Opinion article, published Sunday, January 18, 2015, "*Set high standard for equity, inclusion*" (attached)
- Asked for APD's commitment to social justice

Susan Bean

- Spoke to the need for stronger bond between police and the community

Adjourned: 4:55p

Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, March 4, 2015, 3:00 p.m.

WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper to recognize the positive impact of the Civil Rights Movement on North Carolina and Asheville; and

WHEREAS, contained within the City's statement of core values is the statement; "Asheville employees value and respect a diverse community, workforce and ideas;" and

WHEREAS, the teaching of the history of the Civil Rights Movement is a positive good for the community; and

WHEREAS, the events that occurred in Selma, Alabama before, during, and after 1965 have reverberated through our history; and

WHEREAS, a group of Asheville civil rights veterans and emerging community leaders have undertaken a project called Seeing "Selma;"

WHEREAS, in conjunction with the celebration for Black History Month volunteers with the Seeing "Selma" project underwrite the ticket cost for young people and their adult mentors to attend a showing of the feature film "Selma" during the month of February.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Esther E. Manheimer, Mayor of the City of Asheville, do hereby proclaim February 2015 as

Seeing "Selma" Month

in the City of Asheville, and encourage all citizens to support this worthy cause; and to commend the Seeing "Selma" group for their positive contribution to our on-going discussions of civil rights and diversity in Asheville.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Asheville, North Carolina, to be affixed this 3rd day of February 2015.



ESTHER E. MANHEIMER

Free Movie..
At Carmike
Cinemas

Near Target: Tunnel Rd

When

Saturday February
7, 14, 21, and 28th

Time: 1:00 pm

February 28th
Youth Social Event
and movie discussion

Food Music conversation
Location TBA

Ms. Tiffany 828-280-7931

Carol Rogoff 828.505.0528

Lucia Daugherty 828-252-4713

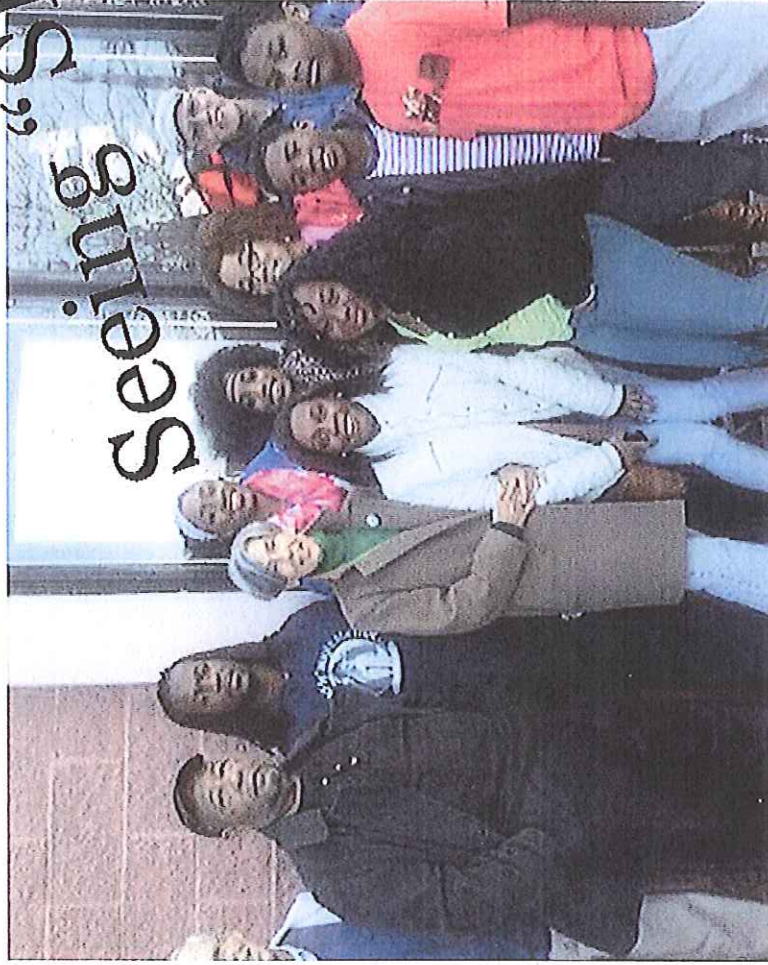
Email us

ROCK NIGHT

Calling All Youth...

By: The Asheville Freedom School

Seeing "SELMIA"



<http://www.ashevillefreedomschool.com/>

Set high standard for equity, inclusion

THE RACIAL JUSTICE COALITION
OPINION

The Racial Justice Coalition includes a broad swath of the public and private sector here in Asheville — community service, education, health, economic, and religious groups. We come together in commitment to social justice and to advocate for the rights of people of color.

We believe that we are only an incident away from having racial discord on the level of Ferguson or Staten Island here in Asheville. The United States has a history of marginalizing African-Americans and other racial minorities, and while we like to hold our city up to a higher standard, we are no different in terms of our tarnished past and the current state of affairs. African-American and Latino populations in Buncombe County have a wider achievement gap in education, a higher unemployment rate, face a higher risk of health disparities, and a disproportionate rate of use of force and incarceration.

We believe Asheville has the potential to be a national model. This community has different expectations from what we've seen playing out nationally. The first step is to be sensitive to the pain of the African American commu-

nity, nationally and locally — and to allow people a safe space in which to feel this pain. That includes respecting community-wide protests.

The next step is to continue the dialogue about how we can do better — the dialogue that is taking place on the streets, in living rooms, in offices, in places of worship, online and in print. How do we, as a community, take proactive steps toward peace, justice, freedom, and dignity? And how do we, as a community, demonstrate action behind these lofty words?

Many groups, not just our own, are doing this work. For example, Hood Talk is creating a space for dialogue among youth and community members, including police officers, in unique and powerful ways. And our law enforcement community is taking positive steps — the Asheville Citizen-Times has reported Sherriff Van Duncan's announcement that seven Buncombe County sheriff's deputies and 63 others, including all patrol deputies, will wear body cameras within the coming month. We commend them on taking this step that has been shown to improve relations between police officers and the community they serve.

The work that we do as individual groups is important, and can add up to create great momentum. But there's even more that we can do to create a

sense of urgency before there is an

emergency here in Asheville. We propose that local community leaders who represent the most impacted communities work with local law enforcement to create a list of steps that will address our local community concerns. We have referenced the landmark national ACLU's Joint Statement of Action to Promote Reform and Stop Police Abuse (August 2014) to guide the following proposed steps:

» A review and reporting of local police department racial profiling and racially biased practices, with proposed actions to address these problems.

» Training addressing both conscious and unconscious racial bias for all law enforcement officers in Buncombe County.

» Guidance against the excessive use of force for all law enforcement officers in Buncombe County.

» A reporting and review of any federal military weapons in the hands of local law enforcement, their justification and use in our community — and a commitment that no further such weapons will enter our community without community review.

» On-the-ground community training to educate residents of their rights when engaging with law enforcement.

» A strengthened role and voice for the Citizens Police Advisory Commit-

tee.

» The required use of police officer Body-Worn Cameras (BWC) to record every police-civilian encounter.

The Racial Justice Coalition represents what is so special about Asheville: a willingness to listen, collaborate, and work together toward a common goal. We encourage community leaders and residents to build relationships with local law enforcement by attending the Citizens Police Academy, a free, 12-week program. The next session begins on March 5.

Relationship and trust-building is a two-way street. We look forward to continued community conversations to increase equity and inclusion in our mountain home.

Submitted by:

Susan Bean, Building Bridges
Lucia Daugherty, Asheville Buncombe Community Relations Council
Tyronne Greenlee, Christians for a United Community
Je'wana Grier-McEachin, Asheville Buncombe Institute for Parity Achievement
Elder John R. Hayes, Empowerment Resource Center of Asheville/ Buncombe Inc.
Allison Jordan, Children First/ Communities in Schools
James Lee, clergy leader
Beth Maczka, YWCA of Asheville
Deb Miles, Center for Diversity Education
Sharon Oxendine, The Support Center
Kate Pett, Asheville City Schools Foundation
Carmen Ramos-Kennedy, The Mountain People's Assembly
Stephanie Twitty, Eagle Market Street's community relations

Much accomplished in life, and in approach to death

through the Valley of the Shadow about